

MLN Matters Number: MM3231

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3231

Related CR Release Date: August 3, 2004

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 269

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

Minimum Number of Drug Pricing Files That Must Be Maintained Online for Medicare

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All providers billing Medicare carriers for drugs

Provider Action Needed

This change request is for your information only.

Background

Medicare is creating a new minimum standard for the number of online drug price determination files that your Medicare carrier will maintain. The new minimum standard is eight fee screens/pricing files (the current period and seven prior files) for Part B (payment on a fee-for-service) drugs that you bill.

Since January 1, 2003, Medicare carriers have paid drug claims based on the prices shown on the Single Drug Pricer (SDP) files. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is creating a new minimum standard for the number of online pricing files maintained by carriers for determining drug prices. The new minimum standard is raised from five to eight fee screens/pricing files for Part B drugs billed to carriers for payment on a fee-for-service basis.

This will allow Medicare to be more precise in paying the rate in effect at the time services are provided.

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Additional Information

To view the actual instruction issued to your carrier, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/R269CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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